

MD/JAC/FS/JC/131(2E)
SOC/JW

IN THE MATTER OF THE ILL-TREATMENT OF BRITISH
PRISONERS OF WAR AT MOTOYAMA, HIROSHIMA

A F F I D A V I T

I, Robin Robertson PETRIE, Lieutenant-Colonel in the Royal Army Service Corps, with Service No. 148780, and with permanent home address at Kintyrie, Milngavie, near Glasgow, make oath and say as follows:-

1. I was taken prisoner of war by the Japanese on or about 19 April 1942 in West Java. After passing through various camps I arrived on 30 November 1942 at MOTOYAMA in the Hiroshima area. I was senior British officer at this camp until 30 July 1943 when I was transferred to another camp. The Commandant at this camp was Lieutenant OSUKA and he was assisted by a senior NCO named MORIYAMA. The British prisoners were employed in a coal mine at MOTOYAMA owned by the Ube Coal Mining Company under the supervision of a personnel manager called ONO.
2. At first the officers were made to attend at the mine in order to supervise the work of the prisoners and for this reason I was able to obtain first hand knowledge of the working conditions.
3. The safety precautions were wholly inadequate and this led to a number of unnecessary injuries. The timbering was inadequate and bad props were used. This resulted in the roof at the coal face falling quite often leading to a number of injuries to those working there. The men had to walk 1½ miles underground from the pit entrance through the main drift to the coal face. The ceiling of the main drift was so low that one was forced to stoop and the floor was often covered with water up to one foot in depth.
4. Soon after our arrival the hours of work became far too long for the men to endure without serious detriment to their health. The ordinary working day consisted of 12 hours in the mine. I made a number of protests to the Commandant and to ONO about this but Lieutenant OSUKA took no interest in the matter and did not concern himself about the length of the working day. He was entirely prepared to turn out the men at such times and for such periods as ONO demanded. Sometime during April 1943 the question of the working hours was discussed at considerable length in the board room of the mining company in the presence of OSUKA and the mining manager whose name I do not know, and ONO. It was clear to me from this meeting that ONO was the man whose influence decided the question of the hours. The mining manager was present but took no active part in the discussions and allowed ONO to reply to all the arguments put forward by me on behalf of the men. No satisfaction whatsoever was obtained as a result of this meeting in April.

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5. I therefore raised this matter later in the Spring of 1943 with Doctor PARAVICINI when he visited the camp in his capacity as Red Cross Representative in Japan. I pointed out to him that British service personnel were required to work on an average 12 hours daily at very arduous work under unsatisfactory conditions. I also pointed out that these men had been given no day off during the whole of the month immediately prior to his visit. Doctor PARAVICINI said that he would make a report to Geneva but I had the impression that he was powerless to intervene. There was no improvement after his visit. At this time the rate of sickness owing to the arduous work and bad conditions was increasing daily.

6. 2 days after the visit of PARAVICINI I went to the Japanese camp office to discuss a point about some fires that had been made contrary to the camp regulations. I was then set upon and beaten by Serjeant MORIYAMA on the grounds that I was responsible for this breach of discipline. I was then made to kneel for 5 hours in front of a Japanese guard. In spite of the pretext given for this punishment I was satisfied that it was in fact inflicted as retribution for having made complaints to the Red Cross Representative. This was confirmed a month later when Mr. KENGELBACHER, the representative of the Protecting Power paid a visit to the camp. The evening before his arrival I was suddenly informed by Lieutenant OSAKA through Flying Officer THILLWOOD, who acted as my adjutant, that I would have to receive further punishment for my misconduct weeks previously, namely the incident of the prohibited fires. I was to spend the following 5 days in solitary confinement to which I was immediately removed. In consequence I was unable to speak to Mr. KENGELBACHER. I later heard from Flying Officer THILLWOOD, who attended in my place, that Mr. KENGELBACHER had asked to see me and had pressed the matter strongly. He had expressed his dissatisfaction with the explanations given by the Japanese for my absence and eventually he was told that I was being punished because I was guilty of disseminating anti-Japanese sentiments among the men. I had not heard anything of this charge up to that time. Flying Officer THILLWOOD made the same complaints to Mr. KENGELBACHER as I had made to Doctor PARAVICINI a month previously.

7. There were a number of cases of severe physical punishment both in the camp and in the mine. I remember particularly an occasion on which Gunner METTERS of the 6th H.M. Regiment, R.A. was confined in the cells by order of one of the guards with the knowledge of Lieutenant OSAKA for having broken a shovel. He was given practically no food and after he had been sufficiently weakened and could be treated by the guards without resistance, he was taken out of his cell every day and made to lift pails of water on a shovel, holding the shovel above his head until his strength failed him. If he could not go through with it he was beaten by the guards. I made many representations to Lieutenant OSAKA asking for his release. He refused to consider my applications and eventually METTERS broke down completely and one day he ran out of the main gate of the camp into the village street. I was very concerned about this since it might be considered an attempt to

escape and I made strong representations to OSAKA pointing out that this incident demonstrated that he was being driven out of his mind by the treatment to which he was being subjected. To my surprise Lieutenant OSAKA shortly afterwards ordered his release.

8. I remember another occasion about Whitsun 1943 on which Gunner O'NEIL, also of the 6th HAA Regiment, R.A. was suddenly removed from his bed at midnight and made to stand in front of the guard room while 4 sentries beat him with sticks and rifle butts. He was knocked down several times and kicked, and finally taken to the cells. He was alleged to have said something to the guards in English which they did not understand, but which had been construed as disrespectful.

9. There were many similar instances when men were severely beaten and maltreated for minor offences. For instance, on one occasion Private SMITH, R.A.S.C. was beaten for whistling. I cannot remember the names of any individual guards responsible for these acts.

SWORN by the above named Robin Robertson PETRIE, }
at 6, Spring Gardens, in the city of Westminster, } (Signed) R.R. PETRIE
this twenty ninth day of January, 1946. }

BEFORE ME (Signed) G. Barratt,
Lieutenant-Colonel Legal Staff,
Mil. Dept. Office of the Judge Advocate General.

I certify that this is a true copy of the original affidavit.

(Signed) G. Barratt, Lt. Col., Legal Staff,
Office of the Judge Advocate General.

供 述 書

余、英國陸軍、陸軍中佐ロビン・ロバートソン・ペ
トリイ / ROBIN ROBERTSON PETERIE / 、服務番號第
一四八七八〇、本國本籍地、グラスゴウ / GLASGOW /
附近、ミルンガザイ / MILINGAVIE / キンタイリー
/ KINFYRIE / へ宣誓シ次ノ如ク述ブ。

一 余へ一九四二年四月十九日或へソノ前後ニ於イテ
西部ジャバ / WEST JAVA / デ日本軍ニヨツテ俘虜ト
ナツタ。種々ナル收容所ヲ經タル後余へ一九四二
年十一月三十日、廣島地區モトヤマ / MOTOYAMA /
ニ到着シタ。一九四三年七月三十日ニ余ガ他ノ收
容所ニ移サレル迄余ハ此ノ收容所ノ高級英國將校
デアツタ。

之ノ收容所ノ司令官ハ、オーサカ / OSAKA / 少尉
デ彼へ上級下士官モリヤマ / MORIYAMA / ニ手傳へ
セテオタ。英國ノ俘虜達ハモトヤマ / MOTOYAMA /
ニ於ケル、ウベ炭坑會社所有ノ炭坑デ、オノ / ONO /
ト言フ人事課長ノ監督ノ下ニ使役サレタノデアツ
タ。

ニ 最初、將校達ハ俘虜ノ仕事ヲ監督スルタメニ炭坑
ニ行カサレタ、ソシテ其爲余ハソノ勞働狀態ニ就
テ第一ニ知ルコトガ出來タノデアツタ。

三 安全設備ハ全ク不適當デコノタメニ多クノ不必要

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ナ傷害ヲ出スニ到ツタ。木材ノ使ヒ方ハ不適當デ
アリ、惡イ支柱ガ使用サレテキタ。コノタメニ石
炭ノ表面ノ屋根ガ屢々落下シテソコニ働イテキル
人々ニ對シテ多クノ負傷ヲ負ハセル結果トナツタ
坑道ノ入口カラ石炭ノ表面迄行クニハ主要導坑ヲ
通ツテ地下ヲ一哩半歩カナケレバナラナカツタ。
主要導坑ノ天井ハ愈メテ低ク、シヤガンデ歩クコ
トヲ余儀ナクサレ又ソノ床ハ屢々一呎ノ深サデ水
ニ覆ハレテキタ。

四 我々が到着シテ間モナク勤務時間ガ非常ニ長クナ
ツテ健康ヲヒドク損ハズニハ耐ヘラレヌ程ニナツ
タ。普通一日ノ作業時間ハ坑内勤務ガ十二時間デ
アツタ。余ハ何度モ司令官及ビ、オノ／＼／ニ
對シテ之ニ關シテ抗議ヲ申込ンダガ、オーサカ、
／＼／ノ尉ノ？ノハ之ノコトニ竝イテ興味ヲ
有タズ勤務時間ノ長サニ關シテ注意シナカツタ。
彼ハ、オノ／＼／ガ要求シタ時及ビ期間人々ヲ
働カスヤウニスル覺悟ヲ極メテキタ。一九四三年
四月ノ或時オーサカ／＼／及ビ名前ハ知ラヌ
ガ其炭坑ノ支配人及ビオノ／＼／ノ前デ炭坑會
社ノ會議室ニ於イテ勤務時間ノ問題ガ相當長時間
論議サレタ。之ノ會合デオノ／＼／ガ勤務時間
ノ問題ニ就テ決定權ヲ持ツ人間デアルト言フコト
ガ私ニ明ニナツタ。

2.

炭坑支配人ハ出席シテハキタガソノ論議ニハ積極
的ニハ加ハラズ、オノ／＼／＼／＼ニ兵隊達ノ爲ニ余
ガ提出シタル總ベテノ議論ニ返答サセタ。此ノ四
月ノ會合ノ結果トシテ何等ノ満足ヲモ得ラレナカ
ツタ。

其ソレ故、余ハ之ノ問題ヲ其後、一九四三年ノ春赤
十字ノ在日代表ト言フ資格デ、バラヴィシニイ、
／＼PARAVICINI／博士ガコノ收容所ヲ訪レタ時ニ博
士ニモチカケタ。

余ハ英國ノ兵隊ガ日々平均シテ十二時間非常ナ重
労働ヲ不當ナ狀況ノ下ニ要求セラレテラルコト
ヲ指摘シタ。

余ハ亦彼ノ訪問直前ノ丸一ヶ月間之等ノ兵隊ハ休
日ヲ與ヘラレテキナイコトヲ指摘シタ。バラヴィ
シニイ／＼PARAVICINI／博士ハ彼ガ、ジェネバ／GE
NEVA／ヘ報告ヲ出サウト言ツタガ余ハ彼ガ調停ス
ル力ガナイト言フ印象ヲ受ケタ。彼ノ訪問後何等
改善ハ無カツタ。此ノ頃重労働ト惡條件ノタメニ
罹病率ハ日々増加シテキタ。

六 バラヴィシニイ／＼PARAVICINI／博士ノ訪問二日後
余ハ收容所ノ規則ニ違反シテ燃ヤサレタ火ノ問題
ヲ論ズルタメニ日本側ノ收容所事務所ニ行ツタ。
ソノ時余ハ立タサレ余ガ此ノ規律違反ニ責任ガア
ルト言フ理由デ、モリヤマ／MORIYAMA／軍曹ニ模

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ラレタ。ソレカラ余ハ日本人監視ノ前デ五時間跪
カサレタ。此ノ所罰ニ就テ與ヘラレタ口實ニカカ
ワラズ、ソレハ事實ニ於イテハ余ガ赤十字社ノ代
表ニ不平ヲ訴ヘタ復讐トシテ加ヘラレタコトニ余
ハ得心シタ。之ノ事ハ一月後ケンゲルバツヘル、
／ KENZELBACHER / 氏ガ保護受託國ノ代表トシテ收
容所ヲ訪レタ時ニ確認サレタ。彼ガ到着スル前ノ
晩余ハ余ノ副官トシテ働イテキタ空軍將校トリル
ウッド／ FRILLWOOD / ラ通ジテ數週間前ノ余ノ失
態即チ禁止サレテキル火ノ事件ニ對シテ更ニ罰ヲ
受ケナケレバナラナイデアヲ言フコトラ、オ
ーサカ／ OSAKA / 少尉ニ依ツテ突然知ラサレタ。
次ノ五日間余ハ獨房ニ於イテ暮スコトニナリ其處
ニ余ハ直チニ移サレタ。ソノ結果トシテ余ハ、ケ
ンゲルバツヘル／ KENZELBACHER / 氏ニ話スコトガ
出來ナカツタ。其後余ハ余ノ代リニ出席シタ空軍
將校トリルウッド／ FRILLWOOD / カラ、ケンゲ
ルバツヘル／ KENZELBACHER / 氏ハ余ニ面會スルコ
トラ望ミ、ソノ事ヲ督促シタト言フコトラ聞イタ
彼ハ余ノ出席シナイコトニ就テ日本側ガ與ヘタ理
由ニ不満ノ意ヲ表明シタ。而シテ結局余ガ兵隊達
ノ間ニ反日的感情ヲ普及サセテキル罪デ罰セラレ
テキルト彼ハ聞カサレタ。余ハソノ時迄此ノ所罰
ノ理由ニツイテハ何モ聞カナカツタ。空軍將校、

Dec 8/18

トリルウッド / TRILLWOOD / 余ガ一月前ペラヴ
イシニイ / PARAVICINI / 博士ニ訴へタト同ジ不平
ラ、ケンゲルズツクル / KENGELBACHER / 氏ニ訴へ
タ。

5.

Dec 8/18

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タ。

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